DMAP Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 1 **Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries** **April 2005**

Drawing By Donald "Duck" Locascio, Jr.
Wildlife Forester

DMAP

Tagging and Buck Limits, On the Table Again

By: David Moreland, Wildlife Division Administrator

Legislation passed during the 2004 Session gave authority to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a tagging system for turkeys. Additionally, a tagging system for deer was authorized, if a limit on antlered bucks was included. Many hunters in Louisiana would like to see the Commission pass regulations that would develop an older age structure of bucks in the deer population. Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries' (LDWF) biologists believe that a statewide buck limit is a better approach to develop this older age class of bucks than statewide antler restrictions. A tagging system would provide the means to enforce a buck limit. A validation or reporting program could provide data to the LDWF related to deer harvest, hunter numbers and hunt characteristics. Finally, because tagging would be administered through the Point-of-Sale system, a count of hunters who obtained tags to hunt deer and turkeys would be available.

All deer hunters and all turkey hunters, regardless of age or license status, would obtain deer tags and turkey tags for hunting deer and turkeys. The license vendors will issue the tags to all hunters through the Point-of-Sale licensing system. Current LDWF staff thoughts are for turkey hunters to receive two gobbler tags and deer hunters to receive three antlerless deer tags that could be used at any time during the season and three buck tags.

One option for the three buck tags would be to have two bucks-of-choice tags and one program buck tag (six point or better). The idea here would be to restrict the harvest to only two young bucks and the third buck would be an adult. LDWF is also looking at ways that tags could be issued to hunters via the Internet or by phone.

Tagging will involve considerable administrative cost, but the Department is exploring ways of paying for a tagging program without increasing license fees. One option would be to generate money to pay for tagging through a bonus tag program that would allow hunters to purchase a bonus buck tag and bonus antlerless deer tags.

LDWF is seeking input from hunters across the state concerning tagging and buck limits. The Department and Commission will review comments from hunters and a tagging proposal will be developed.

NOTE: Tagging will not be in place for the 2005-06 Hunting Season. If a tagging program can be developed that is acceptable to hunters and if funding is available, the LDWF will try to initiate the program in 2006-07 or 2007-08 with the Point-of-Sale Vendor.

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Scott Durham Selected as Deer Program Manager

Scott Durham, a native of Hammond, has been selected as the new Deer Program Manager for LDWF. He is replacing David Moreland who is now the Wildlife Division Administrator. Scott received his B.S. in Wildlife from Northwestern State University in 1989 and a M.S. in Wildlife from LSU in 2001. Scott worked for eight years as a wildlife biologist for LDWF working in Region 7 (Baton Rouge). He left the Department and began working as the wildlife biologist/manager in the private sector in southwest Louisiana. Scott returned to the Department in 2001 and served as the waterfowl biologist working with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. In addition to his thirteen years of experience with LDWF, Scott has been actively involved with the wildlife and timber management on his family land.

"Scott has a very good working knowledge of deer habitat throughout this state. The basic foundation of any wildlife program is an understanding of sound habitat management, which Scott has. In this state deer are a product of the forests and the management that is applied to the forest. Scott has done timber management work on both pine and

hardwood sites. He has been involved with all aspects of deer management and research on both public and private lands and we have full confidence in Scott", said Moreland.

Scott is an avid deer hunter and hunts with both bow and gun. He also enjoys hunting turkey and ducks, and he especially enjoys hunting squirrels with his .22 rifle. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist with The Wildlife Society and is actively involved with the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists. Scott did his master's study on mottled ducks in southwest LA and has published his research in the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. He has also authored several articles in the *Louisiana Conservationist* magazine.

Scott Durham enjoying a moment in the woods.

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Emile LeBlanc Selected as New DMAP Coordinator

Emile LeBlanc is a 21-year veteran of LDWF. He received a B.S. in Wildlife Management from Louisiana Tech University in 1978. Emile started his career working along the coast on Atchafalaya Delta WMA. From there, he supervised Pass-A-Loutre WMA for 11½ years, then one year with the Information & Education Division, and 7 years as a wildlife biologist in Region 7 (Baton Rouge) where he supervised activities on Joyce, Manchac, and Maurepas Swamp WMAs. Emile worked with 40 DMAP Clubs in Ascension, East Baton Rouge and Livingston Parishes. He has a passion for bowhunting with traditional archery equipment (recurves and longbows) and an acute interest in white-tailed deer. He has done taxidermy work as a hobby since the age of 14 and also enjoys wood-working.

Emile LeBlanc with a black-bellied whistling-duck on Manchac WMA.

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DMAP/LADT Enrollment

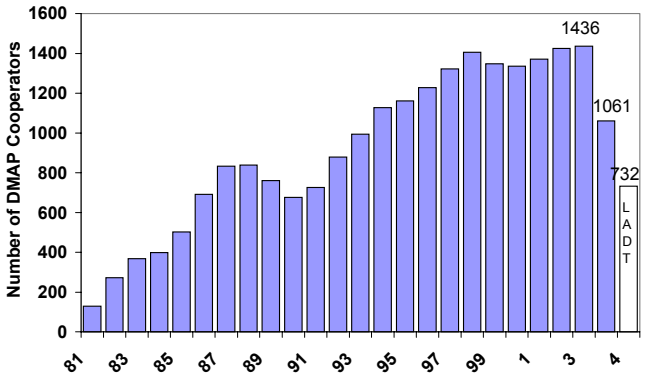
By: Emile LeBlanc, DMAP Coordinator

The fledgling Intensive Deer Management Program, the predecessor to DMAP, started in 1981 with 129 cooperators and about 200,000 acres. It has grown considerably since this inauspicious beginning. In 2003, DMAP enrollment participation peaked at 1,436 cooperators and 2.6 million acres. It also generated $172,275 for the LDWF's Conservation Fund.

Temporary declines in enrollment were experienced in 1989 with institution of DMAP fees and in 1999 with the implementation of new DMAP rules designed to improve enforcement capability. Statewide, a shift in DMAP participation has gradually occurred. Enrollment declined in the piney woods and increased in the bottomland hardwood areas.

A significant decline in enrollment in DMAP occurred in 2004, probably because of changes to the Landowner Antlerless Deer Tag Program (LADT). LADT is a good option for landowners and clubs that want the flexibility to harvest

antlerless deer at anytime during the open season, but do not want to be involved with intensive biological data collection as required by DMAP. Required records for LADT were reduced to basic harvest information (numbers of bucks, does, fawns). As a consequence, detailed reports on physical condition of deer are not provided. Also unlike DMAP that includes an acreage fee and requires a minimum of 500 acres, LADT provides the opportunity to obtain antlerless tags for properties of 40 acres or more for a flat $25 annual enrollment fee. These changes resulted in a 6-fold increase in LADT in participants to almost 600 and over 780,000 acres enrolled (compared to less than 20,000 the prior year).



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DEER RESEARCH/BIOLOGY

Louisiana

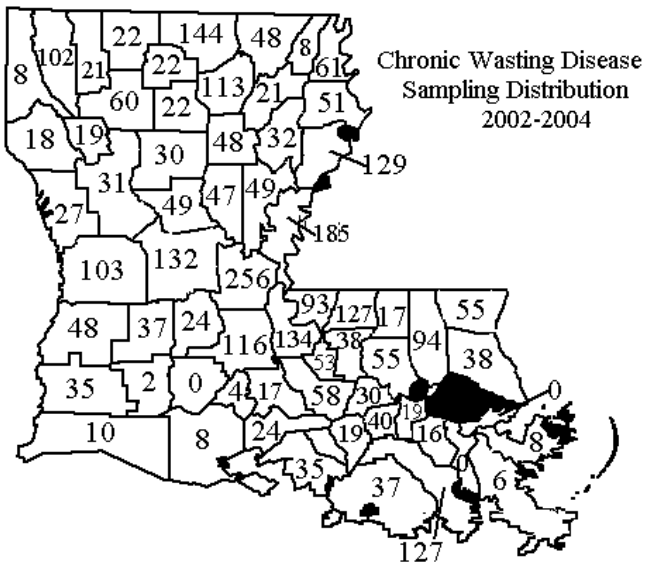
LDWF Chronic Wasting Disease Update

By: Larry Savage, Turkey Study Leader

A total of 1,070 deer were sampled for CWD testing in 2004. The primary source of tissue for the surveillance program was hunter-harvested deer. About half (602 samples) of the 2004 sample have already been confirmed as "CWD not detected" by the Southeast Wildlife Disease Laboratory at the University of Georgia. Results from the remaining samples will be available in June.

Dr. Gerhold, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at School of Veterinary Medicine (University of Georgia), performing tests for CWD on Louisiana collected white-tailed deer brain stems.

Louisiana's CWD surveillance program is a 5-year project. During the first three years, a total of 3,274 deer has been sampled (see map). More samples were taken in parishes with high deer populations and those with a large concentration of deer pens. Parishes with poor quality habitat or predominantly metropolitan have a low sampling rate.



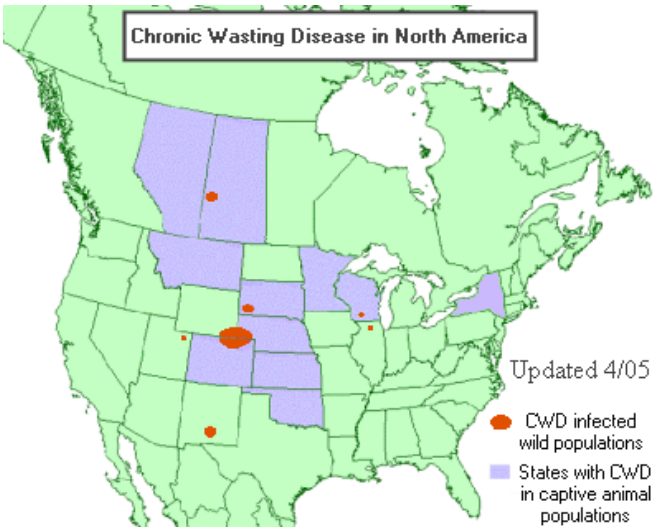
For more information about CWD check the following sources:

1. www.cwd-info.org
2. www.aphis.usda.gov
3. www.wlf.state.la.us

National Chronic Wasting Disease Update

By Mike Olinde, Research Program Manager

During late March 2005, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was diagnosed in 2 dead captive-raised white-tailed deer in central New York. The second case was diagnosed very shortly after the first. Although the second case was in a separate pen, deer from the larger pen where the first case was confirmed had been moved to the second smaller pen. Six other pens may have also received animals that had contact with the contaminated herds.



The source of the original infection has not been determined, but CWD's presence in New York State represents a jump over several states. Wisconsin is the closest state to New York that has confirmed cases of CWD in captive cervids. The jump and potential contamination of several other deer pens illustrate the importance of **effectively regulating** captive deer. Deer herds in the pens with confirmed CWD will be depopulated, but studies have shown that the prions, which transmit the disease, may persist in the soil for very long periods of time. Additionally, potentially exposed captive herds have been quarantined and intensive collecting of wild whitetails will be conducted in the area around the pens to determine if the disease also occurs in the wild deer herds.

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Southeast

Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

By: Emile P. LeBlanc, DMAP Coordinator

This year's Deer Study Group Meeting was held at Shepardstown, West Virginia. During the two-day session, 32 technical presentations relevant to white-tailed deer were given. Some of the topics addressed were "Management Choices", "Antler Restrictions", "Overabundant Deer", and "Harvest Management".

With the ongoing debates on the topic of "baiting", one study examined a little different aspect of the issue. In 28 coastal counties of South Carolina, baiting is allowed, while the remaining 18 northern counties do not allow baiting. Because of increasing deer populations, debates over harvest success prompted South Carolina Department of Natural Recourses to take a look at how baiting influenced **harvest success rates** between these two geographic areas.

Results indicated that where baiting was prohibited, (1) total deer harvest rates were 33% greater, (2) female harvest rates were 41% greater, (3) doe to buck harvest ratios were 12% higher, (4) hunter effort per deer harvested was 6% less and (5) per capita deer-vehicle collisions were 7% less than where baiting was allowed. *Assuming a cause-effect relationship, data suggest that there is a negative relationship between baiting and deer harvest rates at the regional level*. Other findings suggest that (1) mostly young deer used the bait sites, (2) these sites altered deer movement and (3) these sites were visited mostly at night. Additionally, animals were believed to be in better shape because of the baiting, making them harder to hunt. So, the practice of hunting almost solely over/around bait along with deer behavioral changes associated with baiting might be negatively affecting harvest rates in the Coastal Plain region of South Carolina. Thus, the use of bait may compound deer management problems and not ease them.

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HABITAT

Hardwoods; what to do?

By: Kenny Ribbeck, Wildlife Forester

Many landowners enjoy having a mature hardwood bottom or upland site for its aesthetic qualities such as big open woods with stately oaks, elms, gums, magnolias and other hardwood species. The mast component (acorns, hickory nuts, and other seeds) that these areas provide for wildlife is very important in the annual diet of a multitude of species, game and non-game. But what happens when those majestic trees start dying? The following story is from the Louisiana Forest Stewardship Program Newsletter, written by Kenny Ribbeck, Biologist Programs Manager of the LDWF's Wildlife Division/Forestry Section.

"Hey Joe, this is Mr. Jones, I've been walking through my hardwood stand and noticed I have a lot of big trees beginning to die. I know I've always told you I didn't want to cut my hardwoods, but I think it's time to start considering doing something with them before they are all gone. Why don't you come take a walk with me and let's discuss what can be done." "Alright Mr. Jones, I'll be up tomorrow and we'll take a look."

This could be the beginning of a successful restart of a hardwood forest. A concerned landowner recognizing the need to manage his hardwood forests before "Mother Nature" takes it away and leaves him no option. Many people hold their hardwood forests in two regards; as sacred and untouchable or as forest weeds that must be eliminated to obtain the best growth for their pines. However, another regard we should consider for hardwoods is their overall benefit to other resources of the forest, including wildlife, and the excellent additional value they may add to harvest revenue.

Hardwoods come in a multitude of species and are fairly site specific, unlike pines, which in the south are limited in species (loblolly pine is the primary species of management concern) and can grow on a very broad scale of sites. Managing hardwoods can be a little more difficult due to these factors, in addition to other precarious characteristics associated with hardwood growth and quality.

Mr. Jones recognized it was time for him to start doing something with his hardwoods because he noticed they were beginning to die. Mr. Jones may have waited too long to make that decision! Hopefully, Joe, his consulting forester, will have the experience and knowledge to manage Mr. Jones' hardwood stand into the next generation. At least Mr. Jones has recognized the need for professional assistance and the need to do something soon before all he had left was a big briar patch.

Managing hardwoods is different than managing pines in several ways. One of the biggest differences is in managing for natural regeneration of hardwoods, versus the typical cut and planting practice used more often in pine management. Hardwoods, unlike pine, sprout back from stumps and roots when cut or disturbed. These "coppice" sprouts then become part of the next forest on this site. However, instead of only relying on coppice sprouts, hardwood regeneration in the form of advanced seedlings should be present in the understory of the forest prior to making any type of final removal cut of the hardwood overstory. So how do you obtain this advanced seedling stocking in your hardwood forest understory? Let's see what Joe and Mr. Jones see together in their walk.

"Well Joe, thanks for coming out to take a look with me. I know I've been listening to you for years advising me to start doing something with my hardwood stand, but until I started seeing these old, big beauties die, I just couldn't bear harvesting any of them for any reason. Now I know if I don't do something, I will not only lose what I have now, but possibly also lose the potential to have anything really good for the future and my kids to have later." "You're right Mr. Jones, the time is already past; but if we start now, maybe we can shortstop some of this current mortality while we begin to establish some natural regeneration in the understory for future release

and continued growth of this hardwood stand."

"Right now, Mr. Jones, the current open understory condition of this forest is indicative of a closed canopy. Additionally, the total lack of seedlings or any type of regeneration indicates the canopy has been closed for some time. The species component on this site is dominated by water oak and sweetgum, with some cow oak, white oak, cherrybark oak and southern red oak included in the composition. The quality of this site is very good, as I examined the soil survey before coming out here and read the site indices for these species to range from 95 to 105. You can look at the average tree in this stand and recognize that good quality is definitely present, as the average merchantable height is 3 logs and current average diameter is 21 inches. The range of diameters in overstory trees is 14" to 34", with the red oaks being the most dominant stems in the stand. However, the present stress factors and mortality increase in the overstory stems tells me we better start initiating some management practices now to relieve some stress on the better quality trees and initiate some regeneration for future release and growth as replacements." "So how do we get started Joe?" "We'll start with a moderate selective thinning, keying on the most stressed trees for removal now while maintaining a good dispersal of good quality red oak species across the stand for desirable seedling establishment. We will monitor the site after harvest for 2 to 3 years to determine if we were successful in establishing natural regeneration, especially of the oaks, and then develop a plan for future sustained harvests and releases of established regeneration."

Well it seems like Joe's plan is to get some sunlight to the ground to initiate regeneration on the site. To do this, he will harvest the dying trees in the overstory and selectively remove others, preferably those most stressed or of poorest quality, to make some gaps in the canopy while providing growing space for the remaining trees to continue development. Removing between 35 to 45% of the overstory volume should allow enough dispersed sunlight to hit the forest floor, promoting conditions suitable for hardwood seedling establishment. The residual stems will provide the dispersed seed source for seedling establishment over the site. Therefore, leaving your best quality stems standing for this purpose is an important part of growing a good quality hardwood stand on this site for the future.

Joe's initial harvest in this hardwood stand will remove stems of varying sizes. Coppice sprouts from stumps and injured roots will be part of the natural regeneration established from this harvest. This type of regeneration is usually very aggressive in initial growth due to the large nutrient storage these sprouts are drawing upon from the harvested trees root system. However, the larger size stumps, 16" diameter and greater, are usually not as aggressive in sending out coppice regeneration, therefore Joe should not count on much from those larger sized stems he will be harvesting. Thus the importance of removing the smaller stems of poor quality, as these will sprout more prolifically and provide a good quality seedling for future growth.

So next time you are out walking through your hardwoods, remember, if you really want them to stay around for the long run, take the appropriate steps to insure you have natural regeneration established in the stand before doing any heavy harvesting (or before Mother Nature does it for you!). Hardwoods may take a little more time and understanding, but all good things usually do!

For more on the Forest Stewardship Program, contact Cody Cedotal (225/765-2354).

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PEOPLE

New DMAP Biologists

David Breithaupt is the newest addition to the Wildlife Division staff in Region 4 (Ferriday). He is a native of Jena, where he lives with his wife Alaina. David graduated in 2003 from the School of Forestry at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston with a B.S. in Wildlife Management. He is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys all the outdoor activities associated with Louisiana's wildlife resources. He particularly enjoys Catahoula Lake duck hunting.

David Breithaupt scoring a white-tailed deer..

David has been with the Department slightly over one year. His Departmental duties include managing Big Lake and Buckhorn Wildlife Management Areas and jointly coordinating the DMAP and LADT programs in Franklin, Madison, Tensas, and Concordia Parishes. David is looking forward to working with all the deer management cooperators in Region 4.

Jeff Taverner seiving the contents of a deer stomach during a food habit workshop held by the Wildlife Division on Fort Polk WMA.

Jeff Taverner, hired in September of 2003, is one of LDWF's newer regional wildlife biologists and is assigned to Region 2 (Monroe). Jeff graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a B.S. in Wildlife Conservation. Before coming to work for the Department, he worked for the USDA Forest Service in Arkansas as a Forestry Technician and two summers with the Fish and Wildlife Service. He is responsible for 20 DMAP and 13 LADT clubs in Jackson and Lincoln Parishes along with duties associated with Bayou Macon and Big Colewa WMAs in Region 2. Jeff loves to hunt, work out in his yard, work with his hands and was recently married.

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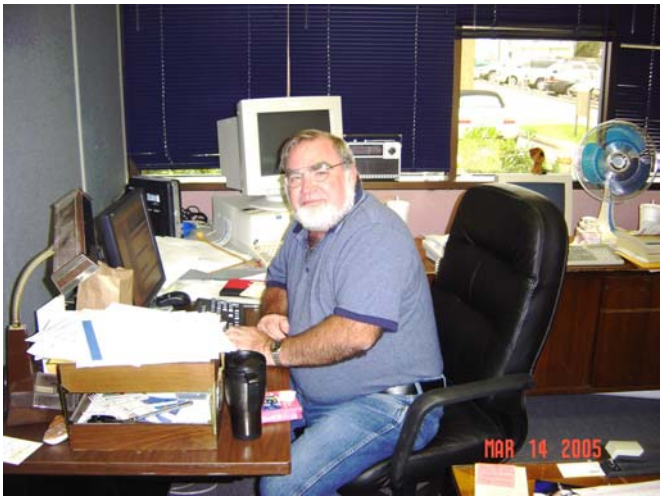
DMAP – Behind the Scenes



Henry Gauthier working at his computer desk.

Henry Gauthier, our Information Tech Center Operations Manager 1, is our data management expert. He keeps the data management aspects of DMAP working properly and assists the people working with the computer program. Henry is a 29½-year employee with the Department and developed the original data management system. His tireless efforts to keep us on the right track (with Deer Trax) help the system run smoothly. We extend our sincere appreciation to him.

Paul Downey, a 14-year employee of the Department, is employed as a Clerk 3. He serves the very important role of running the mailroom and also is responsible for the many copying jobs

that our Department requires. Paul sees to it that all DMAP Newsletters are printed properly and delivered promptly. He is a very important part of the process and we really appreciate his willingness to help get out the newsletter as timely as possible.

Paul Downey delivering mail to various Baton Rouge offices.

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Deer Meetings of Interest

There are two Deer Management Workshops scheduled for this spring and one in August. Those of you who are interested in deer biology, food plots, and habitat management may want to attend one or all of them.

April 30, 2005 Idlewild Experiment Station, near Clinton, LA, will go over evaluating deer attractants and lures through the use of remote cameras, management of clover plantings, planning for food plot placements, and the use of soft mast plantings for deer management. Representatives from LSU Ag Center, LDWF and the South Louisiana Branch of the QDMA will be present. For further information, contact Dr. Donald Reed (225)578-2374 or e-mail (dreed@agcenter.lsu.edu).

May 14, 2005 Calhoun Research Station, near Ruston, LA, will be putting on a workshop titled *Button Heads to Big Bucks*. There will be several formal presentations in the morning pertaining to several aspects of deer management followed by an evening session to cover other management topics. Representatives from LSU AG Center, LDWF, ULM Dept. of Biology, and Louisiana Tech University will also be present. For more information, contact Dr. Kim Marie Tolson (318)342-1805 or e-mail (tolson@ulm.edu).

August 13, 2005 Roy O. Martin Lumber Co. along with QDMA will offer a shortcourse at the Rapides Parish Exhibition Hall in Alexandria, La. from 1 – 5 P.M. Details will be forthcoming and the contact person will be Chris Clayton, Wildlife Biologist, (Roy O. Martin Lumber Co.) (318)483-3832 or e-mail (Chris.Clayton@martco.com).

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DEER TALES

Lightning Strikes Twice

By David Moreland, Wildlife Division Administrator

There is not much documentation concerning deer being killed by lightning in the scientific literature. In Leonard Rue's book *The Deer of North America*, he provides a reference to an event in 1963 in Arizona concerning a mule deer doe and her two fawns being electrocuted when lightning hit a large ponderosa pine tree that they were standing under.

A similar event occurred in Washington Parish in the fall of 2003 when lightning hit a big oak tree. Two adult does and two spotted fawns were feeding under this tree when it was hit and they fell in their tracks. Jimmy Stafford, wildlife biologist with Region 7, documented this incident.

In June of 2004, I received a call concerning two

dead deer near a business in Clinton. I remembered while driving up that a severe storm had passed through this area during the night. These deer had also died in their tracks while passing through an open area in a small wood lot. A fine line of singed hair going from the front leg along the belly to the rear leg provided visual evidence of electrocution. The doe was a five year-old that was pregnant with twins; the other deer was a one year old buck, no doubt her fawn from the previous year. *What was really interesting was that both deer had water oak acorns in their stomachs. Red oaks produced a bumper crop of mast in this area in 2003 and deer were still making use of it in June!*

Natural mortality does impact wildlife populations. It is a difficult factor to measure, but something that must be considered when managing wildlife. We were fortunate to document these two incidents of lightning mortality. In most cases the only evidence of natural mortality is skeletal remains.

Two different instance of lightning strikes killing deer in Louisiana.

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WEATHER REPORT

2004/05 Deer Hunting Season Report

By Scott Durham, Deer Program Manager

Week	Ave. State Temp.	Departure From Normal	Remarks
Sep 27-Oct 3	74	+ 1	Extremely dry
Oct 4-Oct 10	74	+ 4	Severe weather, Tropical Storm Mathew
Oct 11-Oct 17	66	- 2	Dry and cool
Oct 18-Oct 24	79	+13	Record high days
Oct 25-Oct 31	77	+13	Summer-like weather
Nov 1-Nov 7	65	+ 3	A cold front w/ heavy rain
Nov 8-Nov 14	61	+ 1	2 cold fronts
Nov 15-Nov 21	64	+ 6	Warm and wet
Nov 22-Nov 28	59	+ 3	Tornadoes and rain
Nov 29-Dec 5	52	+ 2	2 fronts, first freeze, but quick warming
Dec 6-Dec 12	59	+ 7	Warm with thunderstorms
Dec 13-Dec 19	46	- 5	Strong cold front w/ nearly statewide freeze
Dec 20-Dec 26	42	- 8	Cold with snow in southern parishes
Dec 27-Jan 2	56	+ 7	Statewide freeze, but quick warming
Jan 3-Jan 9	59	+10	Warm and humid
Jan 10-Jan 16	56	+ 7	Strong front with violent weather
Jan 17-Jan 23	47	+ 2	Cool and dry
Jan 24-Jan 31	50	+ 1	Season over as hard freeze occurs

7 of 18 (39%) weeks of very warm weather
3 of 18 (17%) weeks of slightly warm weather
6 of 18 (33%) weeks of near normal weather
2 of 18 (11%) weeks of cool weather

Once again, warmer than normal weather contributed to poor deer movement, making it

harder to see and harvest deer. Warm weather maintains green conditions and deer will not need to move as much to find food sources. In addition to the extremely warm weather during most of the deer season, there was another good mast crop. Stomach samples showed good use of acorns during the WMA managed hunts. When there are acorns in the woods, deer are less likely to come to feeders and food plots. Hunters that hunt only in permanent stands, over food plots or feeders likely were disappointed in some of their efforts.

Other factors that influence the number of deer that people see include habitat changes, such as timber harvests, and reproductive success, which determines the number of fawns that are produced. The past 2 growing seasons have been warm and wet, promoting excellent growth of browse species. Abundant browse should result in excellent fawn crops if populations are in balance.

November is an important month for Areas 2, 3, 7 and 8. Although there were some cold fronts during this period, the weather ended up being warm with a good amount of rain. Mid- to late December was cold and hunters in Areas 1, 4, and 6 should have experienced better results for their hunting efforts during this time period. Another short cold spell in mid-January should also have benefited hunters in these areas.

The statewide deer harvest is expected to be down. There were a few trophy class deer harvested during the 2004 season. A few of them have already been officially scored. Matthew Aldridge, age 15, connected with a 142 Typical Pope and Young buck on the Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area on Jan. 8. Lanny Roberts harvested a 150 2/8 Typical buck with his muzzleloader on the Red Dirt Preserve in Natchitoches Parish on October 23, 2004. Doyle Duhe´ killed a 141 1/8 Typical buck on private land in St. John Parish on December 11, 2004. Several 130 class bucks have also been officially measured that will qualify for the 2004-06 LA Big Game Recognition Program.

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WILDLIFE NOTES

Cargill Fiesta

By Mike Perot, Region 7 Wildlife Biologist

In January 2005, LDWF was notified about a very large congregation of black-bellied whistling-ducks in the New Orleans area. Approximately 4,000 of these ducks found their own little niche at the Cargill Grain Elevator on the Mississippi River in Westwego. LDWF personnel saw an excellent opportunity to put some bands on these ducks to perhaps learn more about them.

Black-bellied whistling-ducks are a tan, mallard-sized duck with long legs, bright pink beaks, and, as their name suggests, black bellies. They are easily identified by their goose-like wing beats, white wing coverts, and shrill whistle call similar to a wigeon. Black bellies are native to Mexico and South Texas, but are expanding their range east into Louisiana. In 2003, a pair was banded while nesting in a wood duck box on Manchac WMA. The following year, 6 more black bellies were also banded on Manchac WMA. Coincidently, on our first banding effort at the Cargill Grain elevator in February, we recaptured one of the black bellies banded on Manchac WMA. As of March 10th, 197 black-bellied whistling-ducks were banded at the Cargill site.

LDWF would like to thank the staff at the Cargill Grain elevator in Westwego for their cooperation with this project. We look forward to continuing our banding efforts at Cargill in the future. LDWF would also like to thank Mr. Art Cormier of Bridge City for notifying us about this odd occurrence. Hunters should be on the look-out for these corn-fed ducks in your decoy spread next duck season and be sure to report any bands to the band hotline at 1-800-327-BAND. Black bellies may be taken during the regular duck season and are included as part of the 6 duck limit.

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Mike Dipuma, Cargill's Safety Coordinator,
preparing to release a banded black-bellied whistling-duck.

The DMAP Newsletter is printed twice a year to assist DMAP Cooperators with the intensive management of deer and habitat resources and to enhance the recreational enjoyment derived from these resources. It also updates cooperators with information on the administration of the program. **DMAP contact people who receive the newsletter directly are encouraged to pass it to as many of their members as possible.** Please forward any questions or comments about DMAP or the DMAP Newsletter to:

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